

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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R 161200Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0019

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 2248

EXDIS

NOFORN

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, BB, CU, AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN USE OF BARBADOS

REFS: A) BRIDGETOWN 2206; B) STATE 286671; C) STATE 294512

1. MET JOINTLY WITH PM BARROW AND MINEXTAFF MOE AT PM'S OFFICE AT NOON TODAY (DEC 15), FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL. PM HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SIDE TRIP TO ST. THOMAS FOLLOWING CARIB COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN ST. KITTS.

2. I REMINDED THE PM OF MY SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH, AND OF HIS STATED INTENTION TO FOLLOW UP WITH PROTEST TO CUBA FOLLOWING REVELATION OF THE NUMEROUS CUBAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT STOPOVERS IN BARBADOS. THEY INDICATED NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE, SINCE BOTH ATTENDED ST. KITTS CONFERENCE. I THEN ADVISED THEM, THAT THE FLIGHTS ARE CONTINUING, THAT THE US DEPLORES THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND REMAINS CONCERNED OVER USE OF BARBADIAN FACILITIES TO ASSIST IT. BARROW AND MOE SHOWED SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT GOB COULD TELL CUBA, CITING THAT AS PARTIES TO THE "CHICAGO CONVENTION", TECHNICAL STOPS BY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT ARE PERMITTED. BOTH AGONIZED OVER

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THEIR INABILITY TO GO ABOARD AIRCRAFT, ALTHOUGH MOE

INVOKED SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF GOB WHERE SUCH CRAFT LANDED
ON BARBADIAN SOIL. THERE WAS CLEAR REAFFIRMATION OF
GOB POSITION OF NON-INTERVENTION IN ANGOLAN AFFAIRS
BY BARROW. I THEN INDICATED THAT WHILE THE STORY OF
CUBAN LANDINGS IN BARBADOS HAS NOT HIT PUBLIC PRINT,
THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT DOES, AND
THE RESULTING EMBARRASSMENT PLUS POSSIBLE NEGATIVE
REACTION, WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR BARBADOS. THIS LINE
LED TO DECISION BY BARROW THAT THE GOB POLICY TOWARDS
ANGOLA BE STATED TO CUBA, WITH A WARNING NOT TO
EXPECT TO USE BARBADIAN SPACE FOR CUBAN MILITARY
INTERVENTION. SENATOR MOE INDICATED TO THE PM THAT
HE COULD GET THE NOTE TOGETHER AND OUT WITHIN 48 HOURS.
COMMENT: I COULD USE SOME KIND OF FORMAT, BASIS, OR
CITATION FOR THE KIND OF NOTE WE WOULD LIKE THE GOB
TO SEND TO CUBA. TYPICALLY, SOME OF THE COMMON
INSTRUMENTS AND CITATIONS, CUSTOMARILY USED IN SUCH
MATTERS, SIMPLY ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE MINISTER AND
HIS COLLEAGUES, OR DO NOT READILY COME TO MIND. ANY
APPLICABLE CITATION FROM THE SO-CALLED CHICAGO CONVENTION
WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. AT ANY RATE, I WILL FOLLOW
UP AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.
BRITTON

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NNN

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